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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,357	03/12/2004	Elyse Clark	K8098.0000/P017	5610

24998 7590 09/27/2004

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EXAMINER
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PASCUA, JES F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3727

DATE MAILED: 09/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,357

Applicant(s)

CLARK, ELYSE

Examiner

Jes F. Pascua

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 16-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/12/04, 8/17/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-12 and 16-26 drawn to a gift bag, classified in class 383, subclass 105.
  - II. Claims 13-15, drawn to a method of handling a gift, classified in class 53, subclass unknown.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product such as placing foods in the bag and using it as a lunch bag.
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. During a telephone conversation with applicant's representative, Elizabeth Parsons, on 09/23/04 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-12 and 16-26. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 13-15 have been withdrawn from

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further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

### ***Drawings***

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "cut edge of said single sheet of napped filamentary material is aligned with a folded edge of said gift bag" (claim 4) and "said handles are covered in said napped filamentary material" (claims 9 and 21) must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Double Patenting***

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA, 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 1-12 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2-12 and 16-22 of copending Application No. 10/405,468. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims of Application No. 10/405,468 contain every element of claims 1-12 of the instant application and as such anticipates claims 1-12 of the instant application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

8. Claims 16-26 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2-12 and 16-22 of copending Application No. 10/405,468 in view of Boyn. Application No. 10/405,468 discloses the claimed device except for the bag panels containing a closure device. Boyn discloses that it is known in the art to provide handle bags with a closure device. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the bag panels of Application No. 10/405,468 with the closure device of Boyn, in order to close the opening of the bag.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-12, 16-19 and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Springer et al. (See Fig. 5.) and Boyn.

Springer et al. discloses the claimed device except for the bag panels containing a closure device. Boyn discloses that it is known in the art to provide handle bags with a closure device. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the bag panels of Springer et al. with the closure device of Boyn, in order to close the opening of the bag.

Furthermore, Springer et al. and Boyn disclose the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for napped material covering the entire outward facing surface of the gift bag. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cover the entire outward facing surface of the Springer et al. gift bag with napped material, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8.

Regarding the recitation that applicant's gift bag is formed from a "single sheet of napped filamentary material" in claim 2, the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has

not been given patentable weight. There is no structural difference between the Springer et al. gift bag with its entire outward facing surface covered in napped material, as discussed above, and applicant's gift bag formed from a single sheet of napped filamentary material.

Regarding claims 10 and 22, Springer et al. and Boyn disclose the claimed invention, as discussed above, except for a card with printed information being attached to at least one of the handles. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to attach a card with printed information to one of the handles in the gift bag of Springer et al. since it was known in the art that a card with printed information attached to the handle of a gift bag conveys a sentiment to the recipient of the gift bag.

Regarding claims 11, 12, 17 and 18, Springer et al. and Boyn disclose the claimed invention especially the material formed on the outward facing surface of the bag being a pile or nap. However, Springer et al. does not disclose the pile being short or long. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to make the pile of Springer et al. short or long, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

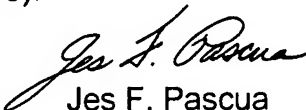
### **Conclusion**

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jes F. Pascua whose telephone number is 703-308-1153. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W. Young can be reached on 703-308-2572. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Jes F. Pascua  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3727

JFP